

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 210880

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, EEC

SUBJECT: CIRCULATION OF EC-9 PAPERS AT NATO

REF: NATO 6871

1. DEPARTMENT OFFERS FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON EC-9 PAPER
"ROLE OF SOVIET ARMED FORCES IN SOVIET DOMESTIC AND
FOREIGN POLICY":

2. AS A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE ROLE OF THE SOVIET ARMED
FORCES IN THE CONDUCT OF USSR DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN
POLICY, THIS PAPER IS FULLY ADEQUATE AND AGREES WITH OUR
OWN ASSESSMENTS. IT IS A SOLID AND WORKMAN-LIKE
PRODUCT. WE WOULD MAKE ONLY THE FOLLOWING EDITORIAL
REMARKS:

-- THE STATEMENT ON PAGE ONE THAT THE "RED ARMY HAD TO
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PAGE 02 STATE 210880

STRUGGLE FOR ITS FIRST TEN YEARS TO KEEP THE SYSTEM IN
TACT" IS AN EXAGGERATION; THE PHRASE "FOR ITS FIRST TEN
YEARS" WOULD MORE ACCURATELY BE: "IN ITS EARLY YEARS";

-- THE STATEMENT ON PAGE THREE (SECTION 1A) THAT
"ZHUKOV...HAD ATTEMPTED TO DIRECT THE ARMED FORCES WITH-
OUT PARTY CONTROL" IS ALSO AN EXAGGERATION. A BETTER

FORMULATION WOULD BE: "ZHUKOV...HAD ATTEMPTED TO DIRECT THE
ARMED FORCES WITH LESS PARTY CONTROL";

-- THE STATEMENT ON PAGE 3 (SECTION 1A) THAT BREZHNEV
HAS FORMALLY ASSUMED THAT TITLE OF SUPREME COMMANDER
IN CHIEF IS PERHAPS AN OVERSTATEMENT; THE ONLY
INDICATION THAT BREZHNEV HAS ASSUMED THIS TITLE IS
REFERENCE BY COL. GENERAL SREDIN, FIRST DEPUTY CHIEF,
MPA, IN VOENYNI VESTNIK, NO. 10, 1977;

-- THE STATEMENT ON PAGE SIX (SECTION 2B) THAT THERE IS
CURRENTLY VACILLATION IN SOVIET OPPOSITION TO NATO
REQUIRES SUBSTANTIATION.

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